

b.) Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please enter the following amendment to page 3, paragraph 3 (lines 12-22):

A' By culturing the base of foliage leaves, plant differentiation can be induced via a domy tissue. The inventors of the present invention have found for the first time that the domy tissue (tissue with a dome-shaped structure) is undergoing active cell division and no virus is present therein, as in the shoot apex. Thus, by isolating only the dome tissue and culturing it, it has become possible to generate virus-free plants. Since a plurality of domy tissues are formed from one ramentum, the efficiency becomes dramatically enhanced as compared to the conventional method of shoot apex culture.